



State Symbols of Mississippi

State Coat of Arms



The committee to design a Coat of Arms was appointed by legislative action, February 7, 1894, and the design proposed by that committee was accepted and became the official Coat of Arms. The committee recommended for the Coat of Arms, a "shield in color blue, with an eagle upon it with extended pinions, holding in the right talon a palm branch and a bundle of arrows in the left talon, with the word 'Mississippi' above the eagle; the lettering

on the shield and the eagle to be in gold; below the shield two branches of the cotton stalk, saltier-wise, as in submitted design, and a scroll below extending upward and one each side three-fourths of the length of the shield; upon the scroll, which is to be red, the motto to be printed in gold letters upon white spaces, as in design accompanying, the motto to be -- *VIRTUTE et ARMIS*."

The State Flag



The committee to design a State Flag was appointed by legislative action, February 7, 1894, and provided that the flag reported by the committee should become the official flag. The committee recommended for the flag "one with width two-thirds of its length; with the union square, in width two-thirds of the width of the flag; the ground of the union to be red and a broad blue saltier thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with thirteen (13) mullets

or five-pointed stars, corresponding with the number of the original States of the Union; the field to be divided into three bars of equal width, the upper one blue, the center one white, and the lower one extending the whole length of the flag, red -- the national colors; the staff surmounted with a spear-head and a battle-axe below; the flag to be fringed with gold, and the staff gilded with gold."

The State Bird: Mockingbird



Found in all sections of Mississippi, the cheerful Mockingbird was selected as the official State Bird by the Women's

Federated Clubs and by the State Legislature in 1944.

The State Flower and Tree: Magnolia



An election was held in November 1900 to select a State Flower. Votes were submitted by 23,278 school children. The magnolia received 12,745 votes; the cotton blossom, 4,171; and the cape jasmine, 2,484. There were a few votes for other flowers. The magnolia was officially designated as the State Flower by the 1952 Legislature. In 1935, the Director of Forestry started a movement by which to select a State Tree

for Mississippi, to be selected by nomination and election by the school children of the State. Four nominations were made -- the magnolia, oak, pine and dogwood. The magnolia received by far the largest majority. On April 1, 1938, the Mississippi Legislature officially designated the magnolia as the State Tree.

The State Land Mammal



The White Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) was designated the State Land Mammal of Mississippi by Senate Bill No. 2324, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974. For information about hunting in

Mississippi, call (601) 362-9212 or (toll free in-state only) 1-800-628-7852. To purchase a hunting or fishing license, call 1-800-5GO-HUNT.

The State Waterfowl



The Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) was designated the State Waterfowl of Mississippi, Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974. Mississippi boasts more than a million acres of prime game

habitat in 36 State Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges open for public hunting, including marshy waterfowl havens

The State Fish



The Largemouth or Black Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) was designated the State Fish of Mississippi, Chapter 551,

General Laws of Mississippi of 1974. Call 1-800-ASK-FISH for weekly fishing reports.

The State Insect



The Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) was designated the State Insect of

Mississippi, Chapter 317, General Laws of Mississippi of 1980.

The State Shell



An act designating the Oyster Shell (*Crassostrea virginica*) as the State Shell was approved April 12, 1974,

Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

The State Water Mammal



An act designating the Bottle-nosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), commonly called the Porpoise, as the State Water Mammal was

approved April 12, 1974, Chapter 551, General Laws of Mississippi of 1974.

**The State Song:
Go Mississippi**
Words and Music by
Houston Davis

Verse:

States may sing their songs of praise
With waving flags and hip-hoo-rays,
Let cymbals crash and let bells ring
'Cause here's one song I'm proud to sing.

Choruses:

Go, Mississippi, keep rolling along,
Go, Mississippi, you cannot go wrong,
Go, Mississippi, we're singing your song,
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

Go, Mississippi, continue to roll,
Go, Mississippi, the top is the goal,
Go, Mississippi, you'll have and you'll hold,
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

Go, Mississippi, you're on the right track,
Go, Mississippi, and this is a fact,
Go, Mississippi, you'll never look back,
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

Go, Mississippi, get up and go,
Go, Mississippi, let the world know,
That our Mississippi is leading the show,
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

Go, Mississippi, straight down the line,
Go, Mississippi, ev'rything's fine,
Go, Mississippi, it's your state and mine,
M-I-S-S-I-S-S-I-P-P-I

State Fossil

A Senate Concurrent Resolution,
designating the prehistoric whale

as the State Fossil, was adopted
March 26, 1981.

State Beverage

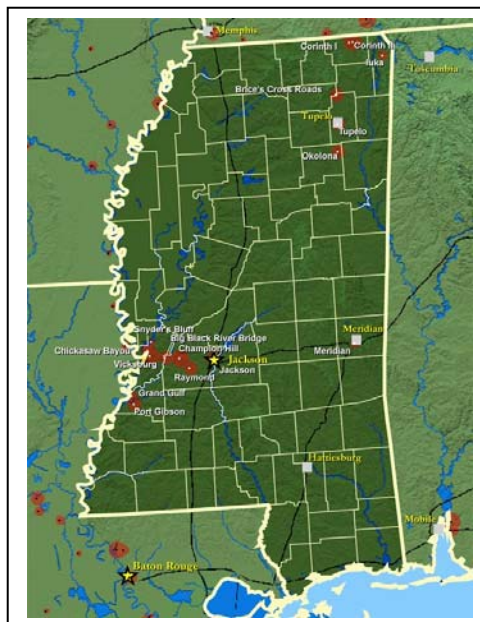
An act to designate milk as the State
Beverage was adopted by the

Mississippi State Legislature
during the 1984 Regular Session.

State Stone

A Senate Concurrent Resolution,
designating petrified wood as the State
Stone, was adopted May 14, 1976. The
Mississippi Petrified Forest is privately

operated park and museum
located at 124 Forest Park Road,
Flora, Mississippi. For more
information call (601) 879-8189.



Vicksburg National Military Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

